

• Abroad •

Moscow. Cuban developments bring a new significance to certain key sections of the November (1960) Manifesto of the 31 Communist parties, which have been overlooked by commentators. At the end of World War II the Communist theoreticians invented the formula, "People's Democracy." This was used to refer to the new type of colony into which Moscow transformed the nations of East Europe. The 1960 Manifesto introduced another new formula, applicable to "the new phase of the Revolution," and designed to the same semantic purpose: "independent national-democratic State" (or, "independent State of national democracy" - the English translation is not yet fixed). "In the present historical situation," declares the text of the Manifesto, "favorable conditions, international as well as internal, are created for the formation in a number of countries of independent national-democratic states. . . . The Communist parties struggle energetically to achieve the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and pro-democratic revolution, in order to create such national-democratic States." Cuba is then cited as the archetypical example of such a State, with the United Arab Republic as a second but less fully developed instance. An ELN Algeria is expected to parallel Cuba. The three key features of "independent national democracy" are: 1) "positive neutralism" - i.e., breaking of all Western alliances; and adoption of an eastern-oriented foreign policy; 2) shift of economic and commercial relations from West to East; 3) "democratic internal order" - i.e., full participation of Communists in domestic affairs, the degree of democracy being measured by the extent of Communist control.

London. At last year's Scarborough conference of the Labor Party, the Communist-controlled delegation of the Amalgamated Holeborers' Union went down the line for unilateral disarmament. This year, a proposal came from the ranks for a membership referendum on the union's defense policy. A correspondent sends us the *Daily Telegraph's* account of the leaders' comments after turning down the proposal. "Mr. Fred Kidney and Mr. Len Gollip, Chairman and Secretary respectively and both members of the Communist Party, stated in unison yesterday: 'This is a great victory for democracy. The idea that union members should be asked to give their personal opinion on matters that concern them is irresponsible individualism run riot. In fact it borders on Fascism and feudal reaction.' Mr. Frank Nobes, another member of the committee, voted against the referendum proposal although he says he supports Mr. Gaitskell's defense policy. 'It is far better that this country should have no defense policy at all and, for that matter, no defense at all either, than that we should for one moment endanger the established principles of Trade Union procedure,' he stated."

Moscow. Contrary to almost universal public belief, there is very little quantitative difference at present between total effectives in the Soviet and U.S. active military establish-

ments. Each now numbers about 2,500,000 men. The composition is significantly different. The U.S. total is divided almost equally among Army, Navy (plus Marines) and Air Force. The Soviet Union concentrates on Army (1,200,000, down from twice that two years ago), with 500,000 in the Navy and 700,000 in the Air Force. Soviet reserves are considerably higher, however, and the Communists have much larger paramilitary and trained civil defense forces.



March, Ben Rob

"If it takes 3½ hours for 25,000 protest marchers walking at 3 miles per hour to pass a given point, how long would it take 40,000 marchers walking at 3½ miles per hour?"

Geneva. The American public has heard a good deal about the nuclear disarmament movement in Europe. Attacks by European pacifist, leftists and beatniks on Polaris, SAC, massive deterrence concepts, and alleged American trigger-happiness have been much publicized. What few Americans understand is that the worry of responsible Europeans, including most of the governing elements, is just the opposite: that Washington is not trigger-happy enough. This worry has deepened lately, with President Kennedy's seeming withdrawal of the proposal for a nuclear deterrent under direct NATO control, his playing down of the nuclear role, and his failure to come through on Cuba. Several months ago, the responsible European attitude was summed up as follows by an influential European journal: "There are two fears that have to be taken into account. The first is that if the Americans are left in sole charge [of nuclear arms] in the European zone, the NATO allies will have no political say in the decision to 'escalate' to nuclear warfare. The second is that if western Europe has no nuclear capacity at all with which to stand up to the Russians, the situation could arise at some stage in which the United States might choose to contract out of a purely European dispute."

London. The hot dog has suddenly caught on in England. The brand new National Hot Dog Council has just held a big conference to proclaim 1961 National Hot Dog Year. A target of 125,000 tons has been set, under the slogan: "A meal in a million."

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